



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Perkins Local School District and OAPSE Reach Agreement**

**Perkins Township** – The Perkins Local School District Board of Education tonight approved a three-year contract with OAPSE. OAPSE represents approximately 100 non-teaching school district employees. The new contract protects the district’s management rights while improving the employee evaluation process, providing one-time wage adjustments to create a more competitive pay scale, and modifying health care benefits to save money.

The District has struggled in recent years to attract and retain employees because the pay scale was no longer competitive. This led to high turnover, long-term position vacancies, and a greater cost to the district for training and recruitment. Between 2013 and 2017, there were 43 resignations alone. A recent regional salary study found Perkins Schools at the bottom of nearly every pay grade comparison. For example, an entry level custodian with no experience earned \$10.63 per hour at Perkins Schools – compared to \$15.16 at EHOVE or \$15.51 at Margarettta Schools. Prior to this agreement, OAPSE employees had not received a pay increase in seven years.

“Our people are our greatest asset and we believe that this contract creates a strong working environment moving forward,” said Jodie Hausmann, Superintendent of Perkins Local School District. “We now have more competitive wages, improved healthcare costs and a strong employee evaluation process. This is a win-win for our schools.”

The contract provides one-time salary adjustments to most OAPSE positions. Even with the adjustments, most remain below the average wage for the region. The contract also modifies the healthcare plan and administration and eliminates vision care, saving the district over \$210,000. Overall, the contract will increase the district’s budget about 1.5% of the annual operating budget.

During our hard times, OAPSE made concessions to help the district and with continued failures of levies, the staff was put further behind.

“Our people feel valued and recognized for their sacrifices and contributions made to the school over the last several years. This is a great step moving forward because it shows a

combined effort, along with community to support our schools and continue to work toward excellence,” said Tammy Didion, OAPSE Local 341 President.

Perkins Schools continues to operate as a leaner school district – even with the new contract, the 2018 annual budget is nearly \$1 million dollars less than five years ago. Thirty-five fulltime employees were laid off in 2016 and there are no plans to restore those positions. The district and its employees are doing more with less.

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*OAPSE represents approximately 100 non-teaching staff including bus drivers, mechanics, aides, cooks, secretaries, custodians, and paraprofessionals. Collective bargaining negotiations with the Perkins Education Association start next month.*